



Funding Brief: MontanaPBS Interconnection

Request

Maintain MontanaPBS interconnection funding at 2008/2009 level by restoring one-time funding to be ongoing, base funding.

The MontanaPBS interconnection system provides public broadcasting service to more than 150 communities around the state via satellite and terrestrial circuits.

Key Points

This is not an increase in funding. The 2007 Legislature appropriated funding in this amount for the current biennium. This request maintains that funding at the same level.

This does not create a new service. This funding supports the continuing distribution of MontanaPBS to rural Montana.

Budget Impact

FY 2010 - \$200,000 / FY 2011 - \$200,000

Background

The 2007 Legislature provided one-time-only funding support for MontanaPBS in the amount of \$400,000 for the 2008/2009 biennium. This request restores that funding, \$200,000 general fund per year, as base funding.

As requested by the 2007 Legislature, the funding request was vetted by both state universities' budgeting processes and put forward as a funding priority to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. The Board of Regents and the Commissioner further endorsed the request and put it forward to the Office of the Governor as a funding priority. The Governor's Office included the request in its initial budget, but rescinded the request in its amended budget proposal.

This request does not reflect any increase in general fund support over the previous legislative allocation, but does require action to maintain this program and avoid a harmful reduction to a very important service.

Impact on MontanaPBS

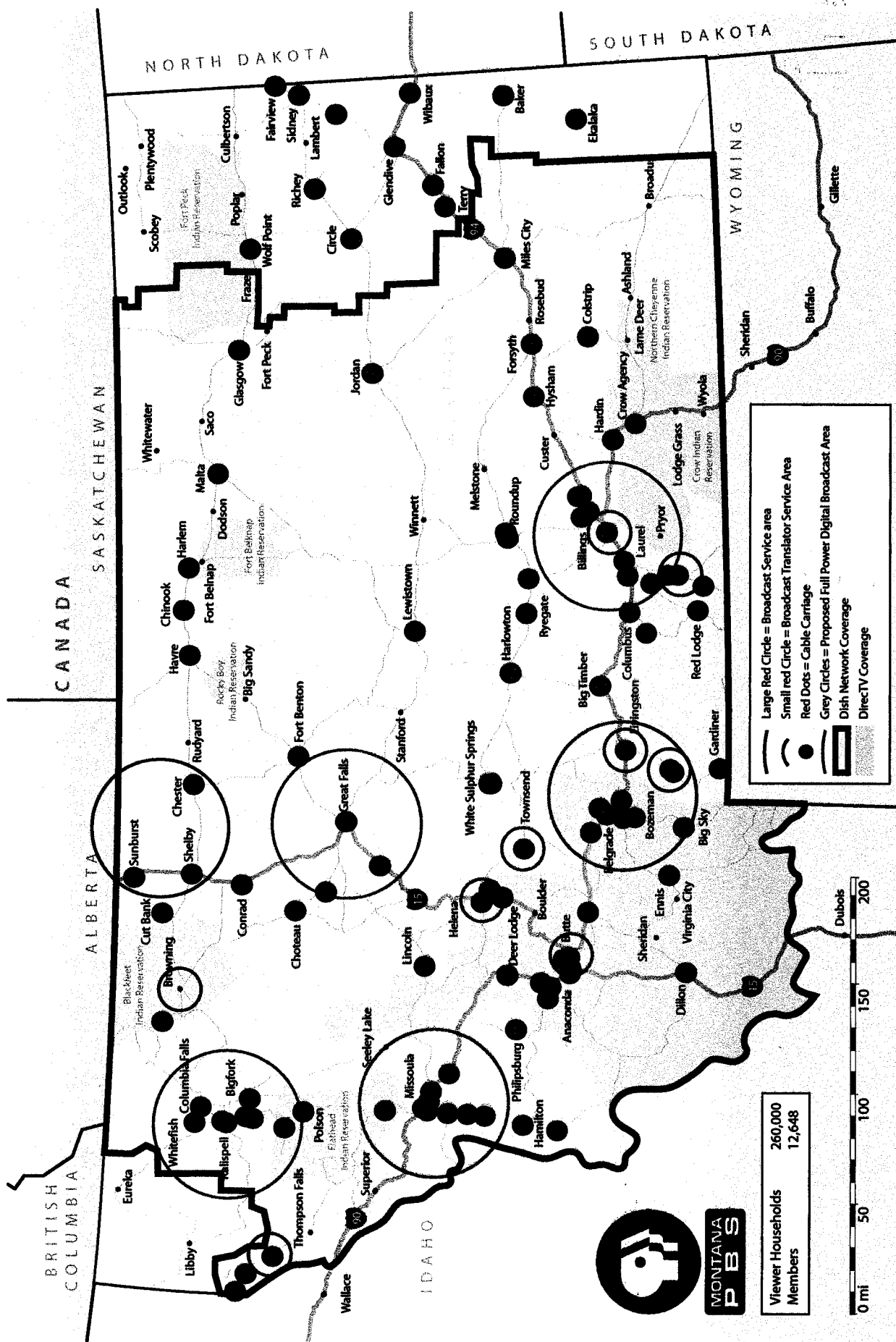
The MontanaPBS interconnection system delivers public television, originating in Bozeman and Missoula, to more than 150 communities across the state. Failure to restore this funding to be ongoing would reflect a significant and harmful cut in state support of MontanaPBS, placing its service to most of Montana in jeopardy. Given the limitations that the current economic climate will place on philanthropic activity for the foreseeable future, securing replacement funding from the private sector to offset a cut in general funds would be very difficult.

For more information contact:

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MontanaPBS — From the Mountains to the Prairies



www.montanapbs.org

Coverage Map

Toll-free: 1-800-426-8243

September 2008